

SPIRITUAL HEART-CHECK

Psalm 139:23,24 - *“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts;. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

CONSISTENT CONFESSION OF SIN IS NECESSARY FOR FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD. It is a must if revival is going to occur among God’s people. Prayerfully consider the following questions. Go through them one by one. Answer every question honestly before God. Every “yes” answer points out sin in your life.

AS YOU ARE CONVICTED OF A SIN, MAKE CONFESSION IMMEDIATELY TO GOD. Renounce it; him away from it; be willing to make it right.. .then you can claim cleansing and forgiveness. I John 1:9 says:

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

BE SURE TO NAME YOUR SIN TO GOD. Be specific. Example: “Lord, I have not put you first in my plans,” or “I have neglected your Word and prayer,” or “I have gossiped about _____.” Do not make the least excuse for any kind of sin in your life. Proverbs 28:13 says, *“He that conceals his sins does not prosper but whosoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”*

NO MATTER WHAT OTHERS DO OR DON’T DO, LEAVE NOTHING UNDONE ON YOUR PART! God wants to fill you with Himself and to give you the joy of watching Him work through you to bring a great spiritual awakening. He can begin when you are a clean vessel. A revival from the presence of the Lord begins today. But it can only happen if you desire it! Look up and read the scriptures first. Ask each question. Give a truthful answer... “yes” or “no.” Deal immediately with any “yes” answers. Then proceed on.

(1) **Matthew 6:12-14** - Is there anyone against whom you hold a grudge? Anyone you haven’t forgiven? Anyone you do not love? Are there any misunderstandings that you are unwilling to forget? Is there any person against whom you are harboring bitterness, resentment, or jealousy? Anyone you dislike to hear praised or well spoken of? Do you allow anything to justify a wrong attitude toward another?

(2) **Matthew 6:33** - Is there anything in which you have failed to put God first? Have your decisions been made after your own wisdom and desires, rather than seeking and following God’s will? Do any of the following in any way interfere with your surrender and service to God: ambition, pleasures, loved ones, friendships, desire for recognition, money, your own plans?

- (3) **Mark 16:15** - Have you failed to seek the lost for Christ? Have you failed to witness consistently with your mouth for the Lord Jesus Christ? Has your life not shown to the lost the Lord Jesus?

- (4) **John 13:35** - Are you secretly pleased over the misfortunes of another? Are you secretly annoyed over the accomplishments or advancements of someone? Are you guilty of participating in or stirring up contention or strife? Do you quarrel, argue, or engage in heated discussions? Are there people whom you deliberately slight?

- (5) **Acts 20:35** - Have you robbed God by withholding His due of time, talents, and money? Have you given less than a tenth of your income for God's work? Have you failed to support mission work either in prayer or in money?

- (6) **1 Corinthians 4:2** - Are you undependable so that you cannot be trusted with responsibilities in the Lord's work? Are you allowing your emotions to be stirred for things of the Lord but doing nothing about it?

- (7) **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** - Are you in any way careless with your body? Do you fail to care for it as the temple of the Holy Spirit? Are you guilty of intemperance in eating or drinking? Do you have any habits which are defiling to the body?

- (8) **1 Corinthians 10:31** - Do you take the slightest credit for anything good about you, rather than giving all the glory to God? Do you talk of what you have done rather than of what Christ has done? Are your statements mostly about "I"? Are your feelings easily hurt? Have you made a pretense of being something that you're not?

- (9) **Ephesians 3:20** - Are you self-conscious rather than Christ-conscious? Do you allow feelings of inferiority to keep you from attempting things you should in serving God?

- (10) **Ephesians 4:28** - Do you underpay? Do you do as little as possible in your work? Have you been careless in the payment of your debts? Have you sought to evade payment of debts? Do you waste time? Do you waste the time of others?

- (11) **Ephesians 4:31** - Do you complain? Do you find fault? Do you have a critical attitude towards any person or thing? Are you irritable or cranky? Do you ever carry hidden anger? Do you get angry? Do you become impatient with others? Are you ever harsh or unkind?

- (12) **Ephesians 5:16** - Do you listen to unedifying radio or TV programs? Do you read unworthy magazines? Do you partake in worldly amusements? Do you find it necessary to seek satisfaction from any questionable source? Are you doing certain things that show that you are not satisfied in the Lord Jesus Christ?

(13) **Ephesians 5:20** - Have you neglected to thank Him for all things, the seemingly bad as well as the good? Have you virtually called God a liar by doubting His Word? Do you worry? Is your spiritual temperature based on your feelings instead of on the facts of God's Word?

(14) **Philippians 1:21** - Are you taken up with the cares of this life? Is your conversation or heart joy over "things" rather than the Lord and His Word? Does anything mean more to you than living for and pleasing Christ?

(15) **Philippians 2:14** - Do you ever by word or deed seek to hurt someone? Do you gossip? Do you speak unkindly concerning people when they are not present? Do you carry prejudice against true Christians because they are of some different group than yours, or because they do not see everything exactly like you do?

(16) **Philippians 4:4** - Have you neglected to seek to be pleasing to Him in all things? Do you carry any bitterness toward God? Have you complained against Him in any way? Have you been dissatisfied with His provision for you? Is there in your heart any unwillingness to obey God fully? Do you have any reservations as to what you would or would not do concerning anything that might be His will? Have you disobeyed His direct leading in some instance?

(17) **Colossians 3:9** - Do you engage in empty and unprofitable conversation? Do you ever lie? Do you ever exaggerate? Cheat? Steal? Carefully consider—have you overcharged?

(18) **II Timothy 2:22** - Do you have any personal habits that are not pure? Do you allow impure thoughts about the opposite sex to stay in your mind? Do you read anything which is impure or suggests unholy things? Do you indulge in any unclean entertainment? Are you guilty of the lustful look?

(19) **Hebrews 10:25** - Do you stay away from services where you will be convicted of sin? Do you whisper or think about other things while God's Word is being read or preached? Are you irregular in attendance at services? Do you neglect to attend or participate in meetings for prayer? Have you slighted daily or private prayer? Have you neglected God's Word? Do you find the Bible and prayer uninteresting? Have you neglected giving thanks at meals at restaurants? Have you neglected daily family devotions?

(20) **Hebrews 13:17** - Do you hesitate to submit to leaders in the church or elsewhere? Are you lazy? Do you rebel at requests given to you to help in the work of the church? Do you in any way have a stubborn or unteachable spirit?

□ (21) **James 1:27** - Have you allowed yourself to become “spotted” by the world? Is your manner of dress pleasing to God? Do you spend beyond what is pleasing to God on anything? Do you neglect to pray about things that you buy?

□ (22) **James 4:6** - Do you feel that you are doing quite well as a Christian? That you are “not so bad”? That you are good enough? Are you stubborn? Do you insist on having your own way? Do you insist on your “rights”? Do you always have to be “right”?

□ (23) **James 4:11** - Have you dishonored Him and hindered His work by criticizing His servants? Have you failed to pray regularly for your pastor or other spiritual leaders? Do you find it hard to be corrected? Is there rebellion toward one who wants to restore you? Are you more concerned about what people will think than what will be pleasing to God?

If you have been honest and forthright in admitting your sins, you are ready for God’s cleansing. Sins that are admitted are sins that are confessed.

Remember these three things:

(1) If the sin is against God...confess it to God...and make things right with God.

(2) If the sin is against another person.. .confess it to God.. .and make things right with the person.

(3) If the sin is against a group.. .confess it to God.. .and make it right with the group.

IF THERE IS FULL CONFESSION THERE WILL BE FULL CLEANSING. The joy of the Lord will follow, and then you can experience living, witnessing, and praying in the power of the Holy Spirit. Revival follows.

Psalm 19:12 - *“Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.”*